

DRAFT MINUTES
Virginia Council on the Status of Women
Holiday Inn Conference Center South
Richmond, Virginia
June 16, 2010

Members Present

Judy Collins, Chair
Amelia Ross-Hammond
Marcy Germanotta
Helen O'Beirne
Jibran Muhammad
Emma Violand-Sanchez
Maricel Quintana-Baker
Mirta Martin
Annie Kasper
Theresa Preda

Members Absent

Kathy Baske Young
Marjorie Signer
Laura Mandala
Georgia Allen
Patricia Gammon
Gaylene Kanoyton
Denise Goode
Ben Greenberg

Staff

Nikki Nicholau, Virginia Department of Social Services
Susan Patton, Virginia Department of Social Services

Call to Order

Chair Judy Collins called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The members of the group introduced themselves.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. Ms. Collins asked for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve the March minutes. Ms. Collins reported that minutes of meetings cannot be approved electronically, according to state statute.

Track Updates and Discussion

Track I - Leadership

The Council will sponsor online leadership resources for women. The resources will first go on the VCSW Web site. A list of resources was distributed. Several resources not on the list were discussed and will be added. Ms. Collins thanked Kathy Baske Young for initiating the Leadership Resources Document.

It was decided that state colleges and universities will be surveyed to determine which ones have Women's Studies programs. Ms. Nicholau noted that Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership will be added to the list.

Ms. Quintana-Baker noted that single-sex education has been shown to be advantageous to the development of leadership in women. Two schools in Virginia are single sex. These resources should be sent to Ms. Nicholau for inclusion on the list. Ms. Collins commented that the resources will be added to the Web site now while other opportunities are investigated. Mr. Muhammad suggested creating a Facebook page. Ms. Nicholau will check to see if this is permissible. If so, there may be someone at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) who would do it as a project. Mr. Muhammad will arrange a meeting with VCU, Ms. Collins, and Ms. Nicholau. Ms. Quintana-Baker suggested contacting the resources on the list and asking if they would like to link to the Council's Web site.

Ms. Collins suggested adding a function to the Web site to enable the public to e-mail the Council with their services. She noted that the Connect Richmond network is another possibility for listing resources.

It was suggested that a paragraph explaining the Council's purpose in developing the Leadership Resource be included as a preamble on the Web sites. A draft will be sent to the Council members for review/revisions.

Track II – STEM Education and Careers

There was a discussion of possible guest speakers to invite to speak to the Council about planning a conference in 2011 on Track II. Carol Burger and Sandra Deloach were suggested and will be contacted about presenting at the November 2010 meeting.

Old Business

SJ 11 Update. The General Assembly passed a Resolution that a monument to the achievements of women be placed in Capitol Square, and a commission be appointed to this end. The Senate Rules Committee has appointed two members. The Speaker of the House has appointed three members. In addition, consumer members will be appointed as recommended by the House, Senate, and the Governor. The commission will report annually beginning December 2010. It was suggested that members or staff of the new commission be invited to provide an update at the next Council meeting. It was also suggested that Ms. Collins's name be submitted as a possible member. Ms. O'Beirne did contact Secretary of Commonwealth's office with this recommendation.

Council members were pleased to receive the history of the Council recently discovered and circulated by Ms. Nicholau. Ms. Quintana-Baker asked whether the research on the project

could be placed on the Council Web site. Ms. Nicholau commented that it needs some editing. Ms. O'Beirne will help with the editing.

Ms. Collins reported that a letter on funding for domestic violence programs was sent to Governor McDonnell in March. There has been no response, but the amendments were passed.

Ms. Collins reported on the First Lady's FLITE Initiative, which recognizes individuals and organizations involved in preventive health care, economic development, wine and tourism, military families, and women. Ms. Collins suggested inviting the First Lady to speak to the Council concerning her initiative. Ms. Preda made a motion to issue the invitation, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Ms. Nicholau submitted a letter to Governor McDonnell requesting a meeting with the Council leadership. There has been no response.

Marcy Germanotta suggested that the Council sponsor an essay contest in conjunction with the Virginia Women's History 2010 Event. Ms. Nicholau will discuss this with Peggy Baggett, executive director of the Commission on the Arts.

Ms. Collins asked Gaylene Kanoyton to follow up on the \$500 check from Senator Miller for the Caregiver's Award last year. Mirta Martin made a motion to hold the current funds and await the additional funds to donate to the planned Monument to Contributions of Women of Virginia. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business

The next meeting will be held on September 22 at the Virginia Department of Aging. The agenda will include an update on the Leadership track presentation by the First Lady on the FLITE Program and a report from the Commission on the Women's Monument. The following meeting will be held on November 17, and a speaker will be invited to make a presentation on STEM Education and Careers. Carol Burger may be invited to attend.

Ms. Kanoyton has been named First vice chair of the Democratic State Party.

The Council will send a letter of thanks to members rotating off the Council.

The Council will send a thank-you note to FACT for the invitation to the collaborative lunch and program with Martin Brown, the new Commissioner of DS.